

JAMES ENDS FAMINE WITH A HAT-TRICK

Boxing Day Goal Feast

Wycombe 4, Oxford 1

THREE goals from a back-to-form Peter James paved the way for Wycombe Wanderers' fine 4-1 win over Oxford City on a frost bound Loakes Park pitch, on Boxing Day. Back to strength Wycombe were superior to Oxford in all departments, including skating, writes Nova.

Peter James, who scored his first goal inside eight minutes, was bubbling over with confidence. He shot whenever possible, put over some excellent centres and caused a mint of trouble to the Oxford defence.

James was given excellent support by the rest of the forwards, who were in a hostile shooting mood.

George Blair caused ex-Wanderers player Jim Truett some anxious moments by constantly changing direction, while Tony Horseman and Jimmy Hay were always chasing anything in sight of goal. Hay often

slipped effortlessly past Crossingham, the Oxford centre half.

Horseman has improved considerably in the last few games, and his determination rewarded him with Wycombe's second goal. Steve Hyde had a good first half, evading Mike Browne, the ex-Wanderers full-back,

quite easily. But in the second half he slowed down a lot and was rather disappointing.

TOUGH TIME

Defenders on both sides had a tough time keeping their feet, and the through ball caused anxious moments.

John Fisher settled down after a very shaky opening to play an efficient if not outstanding game against John Woodley, the best Oxford forward. Dave Thomas and Charlie Gale kept their eager forwards well supplied with excellent passes and found time to have some tremendous shots at goal themselves.

But the star of the stout Wanderers' defence was undoubtedly the immaculate John Beck. John played as if the treacherous pitch were perfect. He made intelligent interceptions, skilful passes and bottled up the usually dangerous winger Tony Bricknell.

Alistair Lewis played his usual steady game, and Ken Brown, wearing a track suit, was the efficient last man in a sound defence.

After five minutes and a bad Horseman miss, a Steve Hyde corner went over the outstretched hand of goalkeeper Dennis Syrett and Peter James flicked the ball neatly into the gaping net.

Wycombe continued to press, and went close through Thomas, and Hay before Oxford retaliated. They went very close when Woodley evaded Fisher and sent his final close-range shot whistling past the post.

As Wanderers hit back, Beck sent a long ball through the Oxford defence. Two defenders tried desperately to push the bouncing ball away, but the undeterred Horseman smashed his drive past the diving Syrett.

Wycombe dominated the second half play, and after 52 minutes James hit the best goal of the match. Blair and Horseman interpassed their way through the Oxford defence, and the unmarked James cracked a tremendous cross shot past Syrett.

From then on the Wanderers' men tried hard to give James his hat-trick, and they succeeded ten minutes from time, when Horseman lobbed the ball into the goalmouth. James headed the bouncing ball home to complete a fine trio of goals.